

HCaTS RFI FAQ March 6 2015

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>What is “advisory and assistance services” as described in Section L.3.3 of Appendix 3?</p>	<p>Advisory and Assistance services are, as prescribed in FAR Section 2.101, "those services provided under contract by nongovernmental sources to support or improve: organizational policy development; decision-making; management and administration; program and/or project management and administration; or R&amp;D activities. It can also mean the furnishing of professional advice or assistance rendered to improve the effectiveness of Federal management processes or procedures (including those of an engineering and technical nature). In rendering the foregoing services, outputs may take the form of information, advice, opinions, alternatives, analyses, evaluations, recommendations, training and the day-to-day aid of support personnel needed for the successful performance of ongoing Federal operations. All advisory and assistance services are classified in one of the following definitional subdivisions:                      (1) Management and professional support services, i.e., contractual services that provide assistance, advice or training for the efficient and effective management and operation of organizations, activities (including management and support services for R&amp;D activities), or systems. These services are normally closely related to the basic responsibilities and mission of the agency originating the requirement for the acquisition of services by contract. Included are efforts that support or contribute to improved organization of program management, logistics management, project monitoring and reporting, data collection, budgeting, accounting, performance auditing, and administrative technical support for conferences and training programs.                      (2) Studies, analyses and evaluations, i.e., contracted services that provide organized, analytical assessments/evaluations in support of policy development, decision-making, management, or administration. Included are studies in support of R&amp;D activities. Also included are acquisitions of models, methodologies, and related software supporting studies, analyses or evaluations.                      (3) Engineering and technical services, i.e.,</p>	<p>Advisor and Assistance Services</p>

HCaTS RFI FAQ March 6 2015

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
	<p>contractual services used to support the program office during the acquisition cycle by providing such services as systems engineering and technical direction (see 9.505-1(b)) to ensure the effective operation and maintenance of a weapon system or major system as defined in OMB Circular No. A-109 or to provide direct support of a weapon system that is essential to research, development, production, operation or maintenance of the system."</p> <p>The HCaTS PMO does not anticipate advisory and assistance services to be a significant component of work performed at the task order level. Nonetheless, the appropriate clauses will be included in the solicitations and resulting contracts in the event that advisory and assistance services are incidental to the scope at the task order level.</p>	
<p>HCaTS is a burdensome and costly endeavor for a small disadvantaged business to go after and administer. Can the government explain how this vehicle would be more beneficial to industry and the government than the MOBIS contract? What features exist in this contract vehicle that differentiate it from MOBIS?</p>	<p>The HCaTS contract has been developed to offer Government Customers customizable Human Resources and Training related solutions that are both commercial and non-commercial. HCaTS allows for all contract types (e.g. Fixed Price, Cost Reimbursement, Time and Materials, and Labor Hour) and pricing at the task order level. HCaTS also allows for total Human Resources and Training solutions encompassing the scope of several Multiple Award Schedules (MAS), as well as some services that are not included on any MAS. The HCaTS Solution is a response to the Government Performance and Results (GPRA) Modernization Act of 2010, requiring Federal agencies to integrate human capital into their strategic plans to ensure full alignment of talent with mission and strategy. HCaTS provides Federal customers with transactional data, standardized labor categories, and contracting help for value added services in training, developing solicitations and scope reviews.</p>	
<p>What level of fees will be charged by GSA and OPM for work performed under this vehicle?</p>	<p>The Contract Access Fee (CAF) has not been decided yet.</p>	<p>CAF</p>

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>DRAFT RFP SECTION C: C.1: "...while taking advantage of GSA's ability to provide government-wide cost savings and efficiencies through its federal strategic sourcing expertise." Specifically, is the perceived cost-savings tied to the GSA's 0.75% Industrial Funding Fee (as opposed to a higher fee that would have occurred under an OPM contract award)?</p>	<p>The Industrial Funding Fee of 0.75% is applicable only to the GSA Multiple Award Schedules (MAS). The HCaTS PMO will have a Contract Access Fee (CAF), but it is still to be determined.</p>	<p>CAF</p>
<p>With respect to the "Early Thinking on Proposal Evaluations" section of GSA's Strategy Document, will the Round One assessment of the three years of financials include, if and when necessary, consultation with the Small Business Administration for those small business offerors whose financials are not highly rated by GSA, in order to obtain a Certificate of Competency, in accordance with the requirements of FAR Subpart 19.6?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Certificate of Competency</p>
<p>Can the Government provide insights on the decision to provide additional credit for ISO certification, CMMI certification, and Cost Reimbursable past performance entries?</p>	<p>Certifications were chosen based on their application to the scope of HCaTS. They will be amended in the Draft RFP to reflect Industry Feedback and additional market research. HCaTS does allow for Cost Reimbursable type contracts and therefore wants to see examples of past performance.</p>	<p>Certifications</p>
<p>Section L.8, Volume 6 (Cost/Price), although referring to templates that are not included in this draft, establishes our understanding that detailed cost and pricing data is required, i.e. unburdened labor rates, various indirect costs, profit, etc. – since task orders issued under these contracts could be of any pricing type. Will all subcontractor costs be acceptable to be categorized as Other Direct Costs in the data submission or will prime contractors be required to obtain detailed cost and pricing data from subcontractors (whether or not for GSA or ordering agency approval), including unburdened labor rates and all the attendant additives that accumulate to the burdened hourly rate?</p>	<p>Certified cost and pricing data will not be required. The Cost/Price template has not yet been finalized.</p>	<p>Certified cost and pricing data</p>

HCaTS RFI FAQ March 6 2015

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>	<u>Topic</u>
<p>Can the Government provide insights on the decision to move away from a contract vehicle comprised of two service lanes: (1) Customized Training Solutions; and (2) Human Capital Solutions?</p>	<p>Improved organizational performance is at the heart of most training and HC interventions, however interventions alone can't always adequately address complex requirements involving organizational transformation and business process reengineering. The addition of KSA 3, Organizational Performance Improvement, will clarify the scope of OPM's mission and better enable the agency to respond to requirements at the Task Order level with more precision.</p>	<p>Contract Vehicles</p>
<p>Why segment the vehicle by large/small business rather than functionally? KSA 1 (Training) and KSA 2 (HC Strategy Services) are functionally and economically very different. Can the vehicle be both small/large business segmented and functionally also like the current TMA vehicle?</p>	<p>HCaTS is divided into two contract vehicles to ensure that small businesses are not held to the same requirements and competition as other than small businesses. This structure with two contract vehicles that mirror each other in scope will not be changed.</p>	<p>Contract Vehicles</p>
<p>Paragraph L.7.3.2.6 refers to a project with cost reimbursement. Does this apply only to projects for which the entire contract was cost reimbursement or if any part of the project was cost reimbursable? Also this paragraph states for a maximum of two relevant past performances – does this apply by pool or across all pools for which the vendor proposed?</p>	<p>Yes, a project that is partially a Cost Reimbursement type would count as a Cost Reimbursement type Relevant Past Experience Project. The maximum of two Cost Reimbursement Relevant Past Experience Projects is per pool.</p>	<p>Cost Reimbursable</p>

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>RFI Letter: Phase II: "Schedules will remain an important part of how the HR Services Category's procurement needs are met." Will the schedules be based on the current GSA schedules or will brand new labor categories be created specifically for this IDIQ? If they are based on the current GSA schedules, do they need to be for specific Schedule types and/or Industry/NAICS codes? "...provide a full suite of human resources and human capital professional services to include a full range of contract types." Please confirm that Cost Reimbursement contracts are anticipated. "Projects submitted under HCaTS need to represent a minimum of three KSAs per Pool. Projects submitted under HCaTS SB need to represent a minimum of two KSAs per Pool." Why would OTSB's (Large businesses) submit for Pools in which they couldn't compete? By "project," does HCaTS mean contract or contracts, or would this cover a series of contracts that may or may not have been related at the acquisition level but do have similarities by virtue of the KSA's that they cover?</p>	<p>The Schedules referred to in the RFI letter are the current project schedules. This was not a reference to the GSA Multiple Awards Program. The Government anticipates awarding Cost Reimbursable Contracts. A large or small business will only submit one proposal under the pools that they are able to compete. All pools represent all KSAs, but the requirement is that an Offeror only demonstrate capability in one of the three KSAs. This is a requirement regardless of which pool is being applied for.</p>	<p>Cost Reimbursable</p>
<p>If proposing a CTA solution, must be all members of the CTA hold the small business size status in order to be considered as a small business awardee?</p>	<p>If proposing a CTA solution, the CTA shall meet the definition of FAR Paragraph 9.601(1), and for size determination purposes meets the definition of FAR Subparagraph 19.101(7)(i). In addition, only existing CTAs will be considered for award. The CTA, and not the individual team members, shall represent all proposal submission documents.</p>	<p>CTA</p>
<p>Can the Government please explain why an acceptable EVMS is relevant to an offeror's ability to deliver a human capital-, training-, or technologyrelated project?</p>	<p>EVMS is recommended for contract types other than firm fixed price where it is important to track deliverables and costs against schedule.</p>	<p>EVMS</p>
<p>For Round One – Pass-Fail evaluation Offerors are required to have three years of financials in good standing. For the purpose of this solicitation, how does the government define "in good standing"?</p>	<p>In accordance with FAR Paragraph 9.104-1(a), a "prospective contractor must have adequate financial resources to perform the contract, or the ability to obtain them (see 9.104-3(a))." A prospective contractor's overall finances, financial resources and ability to obtain them are unique and specific to that firm. The information prospective contractors submit in response to the RFP will be used in making a determination of financial responsibility based on a holistic review using accepted financial calculations.</p>	<p>Financials</p>

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>Section L.7.2.1, “Financial Resources,” pertains to qualifications of responsibility. For small businesses that have financials that are not highly rated by GSA, will the Small Business Administration be consulted in order to obtain a Certificate of Competency, in accordance with the requirements of FAR Subpart 19.6?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Financials</p>
<p>Section L.6 provides a sample proposal format table for Volume 1 – General. This table indicates that that GSA form 527 should be included in Volume 1. Later under L.7.2.1, it is indicated that GSA form 527 should be included with Volume 2 – Responsibility. Please confirm that GSA form 527 should be included with Volume 2 – Responsibility.</p>	<p>Offerors will be required to submit the GSA Form 527. It has yet to be determined under which Volume it will be required.</p>	<p>Financials</p>
<p>Will the Government consider providing five years of financial data instead of completing Form 527?</p>	<p>No. Form 527 must be completed.</p>	<p>Financials</p>
<p>Paragraph 1 states, “To be eligible for award, the Offeror shall follow the directions and submit the following information under Volume 1.” In addition, the GSA Form 527 is listed as a Volume 1 requirement in the Proposal Format Table found on page 6. Please clarify in which Volume this Form should be submitted.</p>	<p>The composition of each Volume has yet to be determined.</p>	<p>Financials</p>
<p>The HCAAF fuses human capital management to the merit system principles—a cornerstone of the American civil service—and other civil service laws, rules, and regulations. Is the HCAAF framework to be addressed under “Organizational Performance Improvement?”</p>	<p>The HCAAF does speak to training organizational performance improvement. But it also addresses training and development as well as many specific strategic human capital measures.</p>	<p>HCAAF</p>
<p>Will the updated Human Capital Assessment and Accountability Framework (HCAAF) be provided as part of the draft RFP?</p>	<p>If the updated version is available prior to the release of the draft RFP it will be made available.</p>	<p>HCAAF</p>

HCaTS RFI FAQ March 6 2015

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>If a group of small businesses team together will all teaming members' past performances and relevant experience be counted without being an existing CTA or JV?</p>	<p>No. The HCaTS PMO will not give credit to an Offeror for any experience, past performance, systems, certifications or any other accreditations from any other entity except for a Corporate Structure or an existing Joint Venture. If taking credit under a Corporate Structure, a meaningful relationship commitment letter shall be included with the proposal. If taking credit under an existing Joint Venture, the Joint Venture shall be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) and have a DUNS #.</p>	<p>Joint Venture</p>
<p>If a CTA is required, confirm that the CTA must have requisite experience as a pre-existing CTA, as stated in the L.7.1.10 opening paragraph: "An Offeror shall have proven experience and performance as an existing CTA..." If the CTA must have been pre-existing, why would small businesses have this unless it was for a specific opportunity in the past, which would reasonably terminated at the previous contract's end?</p>	<p>If proposing a CTA solution, the CTA shall meet the definition of FAR Paragraph 9.601(1), and for size determination purposes meets the definition of FAR Subparagraph 19.101(7)(i). In addition, only existing CTAs will be considered for award. The CTA, and not the individual team members, shall represent all proposal submission documents.</p>	<p>Joint Venture</p>
<p>The draft RFP documents appear to be written in favor of large businesses, per Section L.7.1.1.0, "An Offeror may submit a proposal under an existing CTA in the form of a Partnership or Joint Venture only if the existing Partnership or Joint Venture has a corresponding DUNS Number in <a href="http://www.sam.gov">http://www.sam.gov</a> and all the proposal submission documents are in the name of the existing Partnership or Joint Venture, not the individual members of the Partnership or Joint Venture. An Offeror shall have proven experience and performance as an existing CTA in the form of a Partnership or Joint Venture." Small businesses often partner together based on the opportunity and relative experience that each brings to the effort based on the specific requirements. Further, small businesses often have expertise in a given area not the full breadth of experience necessary to fulfill a requirement. Thus, making it necessary to seek to partner with another small business. How does this requirement intend to be beneficial for small business concerns?</p>	<p>The draft RFP Sections C and L you quote were for the Unrestricted Contract Vehicle. The requirements for the Small Business contract will be less encompassing. Since there are two contract vehicles, one specifically for small business, no small business will be competing against anything other than another small business, unless they choose to submit a proposal under the Unrestricted Contract Vehicle. Therefore, nothing that appears in the Small Business Solicitation will be in favor of large business. The scope of what an Offeror must cover on the Small Business Contract Vehicle is less than it is on the Unrestricted one, and our hope is that industry feedback shows that the scope fits with what is achievable for a small business. HCaTS PMO is giving the option for existing Joint Ventures to submit a proposal. This is definitely not a requirement, nor is there any incentive in the scoring of the proposals for doing so.</p>	<p>Joint Venture</p>

<p>Please note:All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>What are the KSA/NAICS code requirements for the eligibility of a small business subcontractor joining a team led by either a larger business or another small business? For example, Section L.7.1.10 “EXISTING JOINT VENTURE OR PARTNERSHIP CTA” states that “A Subcontractor shall have proven experience and performance in accordance with the proposal submission requirements in Section L.X, Volumes 1 through 6.” Does this imply that the requirements for subcontractors in terms of pool eligibility and the past performance requirements discussed in L.7.3 are the same as the requirements for prime contractor eligibility?</p>	<p>Only existing CTAs will be considered for award. If proposing a CTA solution, the CTA shall meet the definition of FAR Paragraph 9.601(1), and for size determination purposes meets the definition of FAR Subparagraph 19.101(7)(i). The CTA, and not the individual team members, shall represent all proposal submission documents.</p>	<p>Joint Venture</p>
<p>References: “MOU; ... the TMA vehicle has over 25 years of historical data that can aid in planning...” “L.8.1 - For most of the HCaTS contract vehicle labor categories in Section J.2....”</p> <p>Question: Will the Government consider providing the labor categories used under TMA and allow the contractor community to recommend changes based on current human capital and training work performed throughout Federal Civilian agencies and DoD?</p>	<p>Market research is now underway that will provide an answer to your question. Our team looking at what's being used in existing Government contracts to develop the labor categories list for HCaTS. The HCaTS labor categories will all be standardized and it is likely there will be an overlap with the TMA vehicle, since it fits within the scope of HCaTS.</p>	<p>Labor Categories</p>
<p>Reference: “Caution: Offerors are strongly advised to provide clear and convincing rationale to support a profit rate that exceeds 7% otherwise the proposed profit rate may not be considered fair and reasonable and the Offeror would not be eligible for award regardless of technical score.”</p> <p>Question: Is the Government referring to sole-source Time and Material/Labor Hour in this instance?</p>	<p>No. At the contract level, Offerors will be required to submit their fully burdened labor rates and identify specific cost elements. One is profit.</p>	<p>Labor Categories</p>
<p>Which labor categories apply to which pools?</p>	<p>The same labor categories will apply to each Pool under both contract vehicles (HCaTS and HCaTS SB).</p>	<p>Labor Categories</p>
<p>There is a lot of language in the draft RFP sections regarding justification of sole source labor rates. Is it the Government’s intent to issue sole-source awards under an openly competed IDIQ?</p>	<p>No, it is not the intent of the Government to issue sole-source awards under an openly completed IDIQ. The draft Section L references sole-source acquisitions because the contract ceiling rates will serve the purpose of establishing the ceiling rate at which labor rates can be awarded at the task order level if a Time-and-Materials Sole Source task order is awarded. If these two scenarios do not exist, the contract labor rates can be exceeded, as applicable.</p>	<p>Labor Categories</p>

HCaTS RFI FAQ March 6 2015

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>The indirect rate and cost element breakdown information requested in sections L.8.2 and L.8.3 favor DCAA audited companies and restrict the ability of firms who primarily serve non-federal clients from bringing their solutions and capabilities to the HCaTS vehicle. As adequate price competition is anticipated, will the Government consider other methods to show that their rates are fair and reasonable? For instance, would the Government accept a cost build up that reflected discounts off of commercial rates and/or rates based off of GSA Schedules?</p>	<p>The Government is establishing the acceptable price ranges for the labor rates. The Offeror will provide their highest rates that they will charge if awarded a contract. These rates do not need pricing substantiation.</p>	<p>Labor Categories</p>
<p>L.8 The government has not provided us with Section M. Please clarify that, as with the recent OASIS procurement, price for these ceiling rates will not be an evaluation factor? When will the government provide potential bidders with the standardized labor categories?</p>	<p>HCaTS will follow the OASIS model and have an established price range for each labor category. The Government will provide the labor rates, but they have not yet been determined. .</p>	<p>Labor Categories</p>
<p>L.8 Should the “highest qualified employee” etc be an employee of a subcontractor, if a subcontractor employee fits the definition?</p>	<p>This rate will be the highest that you would charge the Government even if in the past you have charged this rate when a subcontractor did the work.</p>	<p>Labor Categories</p>
<p>L.8.1 Will the resulting contracts be SCA covered, and is the “low” end of the ranges at or above the SCA direct labor rate? If a bidder or its subs has actual employees that are paid outside of the ranges provided, when adjusted for overhead, etc, will that support submission of a direct labor rate outside the proposed ranges? If pricing is not an evaluation factor, what is the purpose of the low end of the range? Bidders will have no incentive to quote low rates for the ceiling rates, and will be able to discount rates freely on competitive solicitations. Is the upper end of the range for the labor categories a ceiling on labor rates for noncompetitive cost type contracts?</p>	<p>Labor categories will not include SCA wage rates. SCA wage rates maybe used as ancillary services. The purpose of the low end of the range is ensure that professionals are sufficiently compensated to provide adequate contract performance. Rates that are too low (where the foundation direct wage is below a certain level) are considered a risk to performance. The upper end of wage rate for the labor scales is the highest the Government will allow HCaTS contractors to charge on any task order, regardless of contract type.</p>	<p>Labor Categories</p>
<p>In L.8.2, why are profit rates exceeding 7% discouraged when the FAR allows for profit rates up to 10%?</p>	<p>An aim of HCaTs is providing the best prices to Federal Customers. Therefore, profit rates over 7% are discouraged.</p>	<p>Labor Categories</p>
<p>Will the HCaTS PMO undertake their own internal review of the cost estimates submitted by Offerors or take them off the Offeror’s GSA schedule?</p>	<p>The HCaTS PMO will evaluate that all labor rates proposed are determined fair and reasonable.</p>	<p>Labor Categories</p>

HCaTS RFI FAQ March 6 2015

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>Will it be possible for a vendor on the contract to direct a customer to the vehicle? If so, will the vendor who does this have assurance that they will be able to compete for the work?</p>	<p>Yes, Contractors are encouraged to market their contracts and the contract vehicle accordingly and within the terms and conditions of the contract. Contractors will not be precluded from competing at the task order level because they marketed their contract level.</p>	<p>Marketing</p>
<p>Does the government intend to market this vehicle to agencies across the government? If yes, how?</p>	<p>Yes. Our marketing strategy is not available at this time.</p>	<p>Marketing</p>
<p>What are the current and anticipated agencies/customers of HCaTS, and what is the Government's marketing plan for bringing new agencies to this vehicle? Will there be a marketing requirement for successful awardees?</p>	<p>All Federal Agencies will be considered HCaTS customers. Contractors will be required to have a webpage dedicated to HCaTS.</p>	<p>Marketing</p>
<p>Assuming this will be an open-market solicitation, will GSA authorize prime contractors to use "Government Sources" under the authority of FAR Subpart 51.1 and the Deviation authorized by GSA's Senior Procurement Executive on October 23, 2014 -- specifically allowing prime contractors to obtain Multiple Award Schedule pricing from its subcontractors that hold Federal Supply Schedules, regardless of the pricing type of the prime contract?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Marketing</p>
<p>What existing contracts do GSA and OPM plan to include in the scope of the HCaTS contract? What agencies that currently have their own contracts within the scope of this contract have committed to using HCaTS in the future versus their own?</p>	<p>There are some existing contracts that have some overlap in scope with HCaTS--the current TMA contract vehicle (which HCaTS is replacing), MAS Schedule 738X, MAS Schedule 736, and MAS Schedule 874. Depending on a Federal agencies needs, HCaTS is an additional solution to the MAS contract vehicles. At the moment, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has committed to use it.</p>	<p>Marketing</p>
<p>Section L [Section L.7.1.9 appears to provide special, favorable consideration under the "Meaningful Relationship" section to business relationships, such as affiliation, that would be a basis for terminating an entity's small business or socio-economic status. Is this the government's intention?]</p>	<p>The HCaTS PMO does not intend on providing any special or favorable consideration to any Offeror with a "Meaningful Relationship."</p>	<p>Meaningful Relationship</p>

<p>Please note:All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>Section L [Does the statement below only apply to “meaningful relationships” within a corporate structure, or is it applicable to all past performance examples?  a. “When a Prime Contractor awards a contract to a Contractor, the Contractor is considered a “Subcontractor”. Any evaluation element under Section L.X, Volume X through X, for which an Offeror was identified as a “Subcontractor” will be rejected.”]</p>	<p>The term "Meaningful Relationship" is only applicable within a corporate structure.</p>	<p>Meaningful Relationship</p>
<p>Please confirm that for work performed where a specific NAICS code is not defined in the contract documents, the government will accept the Offeror’s determination of the appropriate NAICS code for that project based on the relevant Statement of Work or other contract documents demonstrating that the scope of the project falls within the scope of the NAICS code.</p>	<p>The Government will be using PPIRS and the Past Performance Substitute Form in order to determine the NAICS. The NAICS code is always present on PPIRS and in the case where no PPIRS exists, the Contracting Officer or Customer will list the NAICS on the Past Performance Substitute Form.</p>	<p>NAICS</p>
<p>Section L.3.2: “Because this solicitation covers three (3) unique Pools, each Pool has a predominant NAICS Code specified below.” Please clarify how the predominant NAICS code will be used.</p>	<p>The predominant NAICS Code will be used only for reporting purposes in FPDS.</p>	<p>NAICS</p>
<p>The HCaTS contract vehicle spans ten (10) NAICS Codes. NAICS Codes are grouped into three (3) separate size standards (\$11M, \$15M, and \$27.5M) and are referred to as “Pools”. The Small Business Administration (SBA) uses NAICS codes to determine size standards. Are large businesses required to represent a minimum number of NAICSS Codes for each pool? If so, what is the purpose?</p>	<p>Both large and small businesses are required to represent a certain number of NAICS codes per pool. The requirements are less on the Small Business Contract Vehicle. It is the goal of the Government to have contractors on HCaTS that are able to provide total HR related solutions.</p>	<p>NAICS</p>

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>L.7.3.1 "Any combination of U.S. Federal Government, U.S. State Government, International Public Sector, and Non-Government/Commercial projects can be submitted." How are we to determine the NAICS for a commercial project? We are not sure that allowing vendors to self-characterize commercial projects, or even allowing their commercial customers to do so, puts vendors with commercial experience on the same footing as vendors with only government experience. Neither should be favored. (This points again to the unreliability of NAICS assignment as an initial screen for the HCaTS procurement.)</p>	<p>NAICS for a commercial project will be determined in this manner: the Offeror will send a Past Performance Substitute Form to their Commercial Customer. The Customer will match the scope of the project with listed NAICS</p>	<p>NAICS</p>
<p>Reference Section L, Paragraph L.7.3. Some agencies; e.g. OPM, does not issue NAICS Codes at the task order level even though the IDIQ contract containing multiple service areas. [How should the NAICS Codes for these projects be identified?]</p>	<p>In accordance with FAR Subpart 4.6, all unclassified contract actions above the micro-purchase threshold must be reported in the Federal Procurement Data System (FDPS). One of the FDPS data elements is the identification of the principal NAICS code. Therefore, the Contracting Officer at the Task Order (TO) level should be able to identify the principal NAICS code for the TO. In addition, Offerors will have the opportunity to request an NAICS Code change. To do so, a Contracting Officer will need to submit documentation certifying that the NAICS Code on a contract or order is incorrect and that a different NAICS code in the Pool the Offeror is applying under should be used instead.</p>	<p>NAICS</p>
<p>Are the applicable NAICS CODES, Section L.7.1.2, page 8, unique to each Pool or do all the NAICS codes apply to all Pools? In other words, does Pool 1 only include NAICS CODES 611430, 611420, 624310, and 611699 or are all NAICS codes apply to Pool 1?</p>	<p>Each pool has it's own unique set of NAICS codes, there is no overlap. The NAICS codes are divided by size standards.</p>	<p>NAICS</p>
<p>Could GSA clarify what the on-ramp/off-ramp process will be once HCaTS is established?</p>	<p>Contractors may be off-ramped at any time if they are not in compliance with the terms and conditions of their contract. The specifics of both processes can be found in Section H of the Draft RFP.</p>	<p>On-ramping</p>
<p>What will OPM's role be in the award of task orders? GSA's role?</p>	<p>OPM, like all other Federal agencies, is authorized to place Task Orders (TO) against both contract vehicles. OPM will also jointly administer both contract vehicles, providing GSA with input on Contractor compliance with the HCAAF and other rules and regulations OPM is authorized to enforce.</p>	<p>OPM</p>

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>Do the Past Performance requirements, Section L.7.3, page 18, apply to the prime contractor only or can subcontractor qualifications and past performance be considered to meet the minimum NAICS code and past performance project requirements?</p>	<p>The Relevant Experience Projects mentioned in Section L.7.3 must have been performed by the Offeror. Past performance of a subcontractor shall not be submitted in lieu of an Offeror's own past performance.</p>	<p>Past performance from Subcontractors</p>
<p>Is it the Government's intent, based on the NAICS requirements for Pool 1 that the Government is seeking small businesses (under \$11 million) that specialize in computer training or vocational rehabilitation services?</p>	<p>Computerized training and vocational rehabilitation services fit under KSA 1. All of the pools reflect the scope of all KSAs. Both of these services do fit under Pool 1, but Pool 1 is not restricted to them.</p>	<p>Pools</p>
<p>In Section L.7.1.4 page 23, it states that "Offerors are responsible for verifying whether past performance ratings exist in the PPIRS database prior to using Past Performance Surveys". How does an offeror determine this? Where can a vendor find this information? If an offeror is unable to find out this data, submits a PPQ, and the government determines that the PPIR info does exist, is there a penalty to the vendor?</p>	<p>The PPIRS database is open to the public. You can view your PPIRS reports by going to <a href="http://ppirs.gov">ppirs.gov</a> and clicking on FAPIIS Public and searching for your company.</p>	<p>PPIRS</p>
<p>Would the government consider an alternate to PPIRS, Section L.7.1.4, page 23? Certain agencies i.e. DoD and large contractors have most of their projects tracked in CPARS and/or PPIRS. Small businesses with service contracts that are much smaller in nature and/or may have multiple components like individual workshops, rarely have these evaluations done. Therefore, small businesses would have the added burden of preparing, and getting government to complete the Past Performance Questionnaires where other firms would not have to do anything to fulfill this requirement</p>	<p>If a PPIRS report was not completed by the Contracting Officer, they will be able to fill out the Past Performance Substitute Form.</p>	<p>PPIRS</p>
<p>Please clarify how the Professional Employee Compensation plan will be evaluated.</p>	<p>This will be done on a pass/fail determination</p>	<p>Professional Compensation Plan</p>

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>Per Section L.7.1.5, “Professional compensation that is unrealistically low or not in reasonable relationship to the various job categories may impair the Contractor’s ability to attract and retain competent professional service employees or may be viewed as evidence of failure to comprehend the complexity of future task order requirements.” How can the Offeror be expected to provide reasonable labor rates/compensation without knowing the exact requirements that are being sought? Why wouldn’t the HCaTS PMO consider a pool of labor categories and rates as done on the GSA schedule and had been done during with the recent re-compete of the OPM-TMA contract?</p>	<p>The HCaTS PMO does not want to be overly restrictive and allow Offerors to determine the proposed labor rates for each labor category, taking into account the highest qualified employee within a given labor category or group, working in the highest paid area within CONUS, on a highly complex requirement, excluding Secret/Top Secret/SCI. Offerors need to take into consideration the scope of work that could be performed, the duration it could be performed and where it could be performed when deciding on a professional compensation plan.</p>	<p>Professional Compensation Plan</p>
<p>Can the Government please explain why an acceptable purchasing system is relevant to an offeror’s ability to deliver a customized human capital-, training-, or technology-related project?</p>	<p>In some cases, there are purchases for software licenses or other non-labor items that are needed to perform against requirements. An acceptable purchasing system helps to ensure those purchases will be made in a cost-effective manner and will be properly documented.</p>	<p>Purchasing System</p>
<p>Section L [L.7.5.2 and L.7.5.3 indicate that credit will be given to offerors that possess estimating/purchasing systems that meet the verification requirements outlined. Does this credit apply to small offerors as well as non-small offerors? ]</p>	<p>Small businesses and Other than Small Businesses will receive credit if they possess an identified system in the solicitation. An Offeror cannot take credit for any system from any Subcontractors.</p>	<p>Purchasing system</p>
<p>The requirement states that past performance submission should “involve the performance and/or integration of at least three KSAs.” Please clarify if the requirement of involving three KSA’s is a cumulative requirement of all the past performance submissions per Pool, or if each individual project submitted must involve three KSAs.</p>	<p>This is a separate requirement where three Pool Qualification Projects projects will be evaluated for scope. They may be the same projects that were used for the Relevant Past Performance Projects, but they require supplemental documentation. The revised requirement is that the Offeror needs to only represent one KSA with their three Pool Qualification Projects.</p>	<p>Qualification Project</p>
<p>Per L.6 of Appendix 3, the proposal submission requirements do not appear to ask for a technical approach or understanding of the key service areas that work would be performed in. Does the government intend to ask contractors to demonstrate their technical approach or understanding of requirements?</p>	<p>The HCaTS PMO intends to require all Offerors (under both HCaTS and HCaTS SB) in every pool to submit qualification projects that indicate they have the background and ability to perform if awarded a contract. At the proposal level, this is judged on a pass/fail basis. These background qualification projects will be submitted once, no matter how many Pools the Offeror is applying for.</p>	<p>Qualification Project</p>

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>Furthermore, many of our projects may be classified under 541611 as a primary code, but include tasks and activities that would be more appropriate for the 541612 category. Similarly, will GSA consider the use of one past performance to obtain eligibility for multiple codes if the offeror provides a written explanation of the task and activities within the project that are applicable to each code?</p>	<p>The same project may not be submitted for multiple NAICS. The requirement calls for distinct projects.</p>	<p>Relevant Experience Project</p>
<p>L.7.3.1 Please confirm that the pass/fail requirements for past performance only consist of the following:          1. Submit minimum number of past performance by pool and NAICS code          2. All projects meet timeframe criteria          3. All projects meet individual and cumulative value</p>	<p>The Relevant Past Performance Projects must meet the minimum criteria that you described in 1 and 2, however, 3 is a scoring element. The Relevant Past Performance Projects must first meet the minimum criteria and then will be scored on various elements that establish complexity.</p>	<p>Relevant Experience Project</p>
<p>Work performed in State, Local, and International governments, along with work performed in the commercial sector lacks formal small business measurement metrics. Would the Government consider evaluating non - Federal past performances differently to reflect this and preserve a variety of experience?</p>	<p>Yes, for this experience the Offeror would use the Past Performance Substitute Form.</p>	<p>Relevant Experience Project</p>
<p>Draft RFP Sections L.7.2.4 Relevant Past Performance Score Sheet; and L.7.3 Relevant Past Performance Projects: [Question - In order for an Offeror to be eligible for an award, do the primary NAICS Codes for the contracts that the Offeror submits as past performance projects need to match the NAICS Codes listed in the Pools? For example, if the past performance project that the Offeror submits includes directly relevant work in the scope, but the contract was procured under a NAICS Code that is different than the ones identified in the HCaTS RFI, would the Offeror's past performance project cause the Offeror to be ineligible for an HCaTS award?]</p>	<p>Yes. If the Offeror believes that a previously awarded contract action does not have the correct NAICS Codes identified, the Offeror can request the Contracting Officer submit documentation certifying the change in NAICS Code(s).</p>	<p>Relevant Experience Project</p>

<p>Please note:All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>Section L [Can offerors submit past performance examples, where the offeror was a subcontractor to another firm? This assumes that our past performance summary would only include the work done by employees of our company.]</p>	<p>Past performance completed as a subcontractor will not count as Federal Past Performance. Past Performance completed as a subcontractor may count as Commercial Past Performance with the prime contractor as the end customer. FYI, additional points will be scored for Federal Past Performance. What defines Federal Past Performance? The only Past Performance that will be considered Federal Past Performance is that done with the Offeror as the Prime Contractor.</p>	<p>Relevant Experience Project</p>
<p>Reference Section L, Paragraph 7.3.1, item 1:The draft Section L states here: "...the Offeror shall submit a minimum of 6 and maximum of 9 distinct relevant experience projects per Pool that meet the following minimum conditions: 1. Involve the performance and/or integration of at least three KSAs. The HCaTS contract vehicle KSAs are described in Section C.; 2. Each project shall have been completed within the past five (5) years prior to the solicitation closing date; or, be ongoing with at least one (1) year of performance completed prior to the solicitation closing date. [Does the requirement to involve the performance and/or integration of at least three KSA's apply to each relevant experience project, or to the collection of references for the Pool?]</p>	<p>No, each Relevant Experience Project does not need to include multiple KSAs. Each project will be represented by the primary NAICS Code of the project as determined by PPIRS or the Past Performance Substitute Form. The three Qualification projects will need to represent a minimum of one KSA.</p>	<p>Relevant Experience Project</p>
<p>Reference Draft RFP Section L.6 Proposal Format [Question: Will a technical response be required?]</p>	<p>To qualify for any Pool, Offerors will be required to submit information substantiating they have experience providing services under the minimum number of NAICS Codes identified for that Pool.</p>	<p>Relevant Experience Project</p>
<p>Will GSA be providing a self-scoring worksheet, for the proposal response, similar to that which was used for OASIS? Is this what is referred to in Section L.7.3.2 ADDITIONAL POINTS FOR RELEVANT PAST PERFORMANCE PROJECTS "See Section M.6. Scoring Table"?</p>	<p>Yes, the Government will be providing a self-scoring worksheet for Past Performance projects. It will be provided in the draft RFP.</p>	<p>Relevant Experience Project</p>
<p>Paragraph L.7.3.1, last sentence of the first subparagraph states "However, one (1) out of the six (6) required relevant past performance projects may be a collection of task orders placed under a Single Award IDIQ task order contract or Single Award BPA." Does this statement apply to each Pool or for the entire set of projects across all Pools – please specify.</p>	<p>This requirement will apply to all Pools.</p>	<p>Relevant Experience Project</p>

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>L.7.3.2.5: Can the Government please clarify the number of additional points received if the offeror's past performance involves subcontracting for services with at least four separate entities? Can the Government please clarify what it means by "separate entity"? Can the Government please explain how an offeror's past performance involving subcontracting with 4 entities is relevant to the merit and ability of that offeror? Why is the Government placing importance on this criteria?</p>	<p>The points have not yet been confirmed, but will be released with the draft RFP. An entity is either a company or an existing Joint Venture with its own DUNS and SAM registration. The Government is encouraging the use of subcontracting in HCaTS and is therefore awarding for past performance.</p>	<p>Relevant Experience Project</p>
<p>Reference: "Each project or evaluation element is scored a maximum of one time." Question: Because individual contracts in the human capital and training domains frequently span multiple NAICS codes and KSAs, will the Government allow using one contract as relevant past performance across multiple pools?</p>	<p>No. Each project shall be associated with one NAICS Code as identified in PPIRS or the PPIRS Substitute Form.</p>	<p>Relevant Past Performance Project</p>
<p>What are the contract vehicle competitors to HCaTS; i.e., will specific work be excluded from HCaTS and placed on GSA Schedules such as PSS, 738X, or MOBIS?</p>	<p>It is always a customer's choice as to where they choose to issue their RFP or RFQ. Neither HCaTS nor the MAS Schedules are required sources.</p>	<p>Schedules</p>
<p>We understand that GSA is in the process of consolidating all seven of its professional services schedules (MOBIS, PES, FABS, AIMS, LOGWORLD, Environmental, and Language) into a single Professional Services Schedule (PSS).  What will be the relationship between this new PSS and the HCaTS contracts?</p>	<p>Any consolidation of the Multiple Award Schedule has no bearing on HCaTS. HCaTS is its own contract vehicle outside of the Multiple Award Schedule Program.</p>	<p>Schedules</p>
<p>Please confirm our understanding that, when formally issued, this solicitation will not be under GSA's Multiple Award Schedule program, but rather an open-market transaction.</p>	<p>Yes. Two separate Request for Proposals (RFPs) will be solicited using FAR Part 15 procedures. One of the RFPs will be solicited on an unrestricted basis (HCaTS) and another RFP will be solicited on a total set-aside basis (HCaTS SB).</p>	<p>Schedules</p>
<p>Do primes and subcontractors need to have a GSA schedule in order to be considered for this procurement?</p>	<p>It is not required that an Offeror (or its subcontractor(s) have a GSA schedule. The HCaTS PMO is entirely separate from the MAS and GWAC programs.</p>	<p>Schedules</p>
<p>Are Contract Residential Treatment Program and Supportive Transitional Housing Program be within scope of the subject RFI?</p>	<p>This is considered outside of the scope of HCaTS.</p>	<p>Scope</p>

HCaTS RFI FAQ March 6 2015

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>KSA-2 This KSA shall not include standard training and development for specific professions and trades that are adequately covered by other venues (e.g., the professional procurement job series, skilled trades, pilots, firefighters, armed service military occupational specialties, etc.). Does the Government include Project Management in its excluded list?</p>	<p>Project Management, on its own, is not included in the scope of HCaTS. The key distinction of HCaTS is an emphasis on customized services. If a customer requires only COTS training (of any kind), we would not provide a solution. But, if the customer requires a customized solution that includes some COTS elements (which do not make up the major portion of the solution), we may respond.</p>	<p>Scope</p>
<p>Where is the inclusion of new technology enabled learning addressed? This is important to demonstrate the evolving needs of the federal agencies.</p>	<p>We agree that new technology enabled training is very important. KSA 1, covering Training and Development, allows for all types of training.</p>	<p>Scope</p>
<p>Paragraph L.7.3.2.2, indicates that the Contracting Officer will be reviewing and possibly lowering the vendor's submitted Past Performance Score and possibly generating an error. Please provide the details of the scoring for review and comment with the draft RFP. Also if the Contracting Officer might reduce a score, could the Contracting Officer also increase the score? If so, how would an increase apply to the error rate?</p>	<p>This will be detailed in the draft RFP. If the Contracting Officer sees an error in the score sheet that artificially lowered the score; the Contracting Officer will increase the score. Increasing the score will not negatively effect the error rate.</p>	<p>Scoring</p>
<p>Does the Government intend to include any type of technical volume, marketing and business development plan, or narrative that would highlight the bidder's key differentiators?</p>	<p>No, Offerors will be differentiated by their past performance.</p>	<p>Scoring</p>
<p>Is it the Government's intention to score Past Performance on a point basis similar to the scoring methodology used on GSA OASIS? That is, will offerors who exceed any minimum past performance requirements receive additional points?</p>	<p>HCats will be using a similar scoring methodology, however, the criteria and point allotment will be different.</p>	<p>Scoring</p>

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>Government-approved systems and clearances such as estimating, purchasing, EVMS CMMI, ISO, and Facility are sometimes beneficial, but are not readily obtainable for smaller contractors. In Our experience on the current OPM-TMA, they are usually not necessary given that this is a services contract and not a manufacturing / purchasing contract. Why are holders of these systems “considered more favorably”? How will this scoring element affect the scores of contractors who do not possess them (because they have not been required)? By GSA/OPM requiring approved estimating and purchasing systems for training and human capital services, mid-size and small companies may not be compliant. Can GSA/OPM remove this requirement and the additional scoring/points earned for having these systems? Perhaps just inquiring about these systems in the Representations and Certifications would be sufficient.</p>	<p>Point designations have not yet been determined. Regarding certifications: The Government selects certifications that are relevant to the scope of work encompassed by HCaTS. The goal is to have contractors who have qualified through experience, those who can prove past performance of complex HCaTS related work and hold related Industry certifications are expected to perform high caliber work. Each scoring element an Offeror meets raises their score and contracts will be awarded to the highest scoring qualified Offerors. The Government is reviewing all Industry feedback and taking it into consideration while drafting the RFP.</p>	<p>Scoring</p>
<p>Will the government be using SF 1449? (Ref Section L.7.4.3, p. 23)</p>	<p>HCaTS is using the SF33 form and not the SF 1449.</p>	<p>SF 33</p>
<p>Section 7.1.2 Can a small business (with revenues less than \$11M) respond to Pool 1 as a prime and also be a subcontractor to a prime contractor (with revenues less than \$27.5M) in Pool 3? In other words, will the government rely on the prime contractor's revenue or will it add all revenues together? If the later, the total revenue for the combined companies will exceed the \$27.5M limits. Please clarify.</p>	<p>Only the Offeror's revenue is taken into consideration when determining if they exceed the size standards for a specific pool. For HCaTS, an Offeror is not allowed to substitute a subcontractor's experience for their own, therefore the subcontractor's revenue makes no difference to the final figure. The exception is Pre-Existing Joint Ventures: they are permitted to submit a proposal as a single entity. So, in the case of an already existing Joint Venture, the combined revenue will be used when determining the size standard. But this is only for pre-existing joint ventures.</p>	<p>Size Standard</p>
<p>How does the government intend to treat small businesses that graduate to other than small business? Would they continue to be eligible for awards under the unrestricted vehicle? If an IDIQ-holder graduated above the \$11 million threshold, would it automatically enter the pool with the threshold set at \$15 million?</p>	<p>A Contractor that no longer can certify as a small business under the set-aside contract vehicle in the Pool they were awarded have the opportunity to submit a proposal under the unrestricted contract vehicle. The process for this Vertical On-Ramping will be included in the RFP.</p>	<p>Size Standard</p>

HCaTS RFI FAQ March 6 2015

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>Page 3 of the RFI identifies “size standards,” while Section L.3.2 refers to the same amounts as “small business size standards.” Can the government clarify what these size standards refer to (e.g., total funding available for each pool, award maximum per IDIQ within each Pool) and to whom they apply (i.e., only small business Offerors or all Offerors)?</p>	<p>Size standards are determined by NAICS codes. These determine when a business is considered a "small business" and when it is not. If it is not a "small business," the proposal would need to be submitted on the Unrestricted Contract Vehicle, which is open to all Offerors.</p>	<p>Size Standard</p>
<p>Is there an anticipated or aspirational number of awards to be made for each pool specifically for set-asides such as SDVOSB, 8(a), etc?</p>	<p>There is no plan for set-asides within each pool. Extra points on the self-score sheet will be given to certain socio-economic designations.</p>	<p>Socio-economic</p>
<p>Would GSA consider treating subcontracting the same as for OASIS(e.g., No teaming considerations for IDIQ award.)</p>	<p>HCaTS is in-line with OASIS, in regard to subcontracting. An Offeror is not allowed to use a subcontractor's past performance as their own.</p>	<p>Subcontracting Plan</p>
<p>Reference: Offerors should only submit “realistic goals that are attainable to the Offeror’s individual circumstances.” Question: Will an offeror who proposes goals that are lower than GSA’s be penalized in the evaluation?</p>	<p>Subcontracting plans shall contain realistic goals that are unique to the Offeror's specific situation. All Subcontracting Plans will be reviewed by the Office of Small Business Utilization and the SBA, and Offerors will be required to address all comments to the satisfaction of the Contracting Officer, OSBU and SBA.</p>	<p>Subcontracting Plan</p>
<p>How will the Subcontracting Plan be evaluated for pass/fail?</p>	<p>The Subcontracting Plan will be evaluated based on the goals meeting or exceeding HCaTS goals, correctness, and realism.</p>	<p>Subcontracting Plan</p>
<p>In the table listing GSA’s Subcontracting Goals for HCaTS, the percentage for small business awards is listed as 50%. Please clarify if this is measured against subcontracting dollars.</p>	<p>Yes, the 50% is measured against subcontracting dollars.</p>	<p>Subcontracting Plan</p>
<p>Section L.7.1.8 – Are the percentage values listed in the small business subcontracting goals table based on the total subcontracted values or contract price per year?</p>	<p>No. The listed subcontracting goals are based on GSA's FY2014 goals. The subcontracting goals may change before the final RFP is released.</p>	<p>Subcontracting Plan</p>
<p>Will small businesses that submit a valid subcontracting plan (including other small businesses) be scored more favorably than those that do not?</p>	<p>The submission of a Subcontracting Plan does not add more points.</p>	<p>Subcontracting Plan</p>
<p>Are small business Offerors required to submit a subcontracting plan?</p>	<p>No, a small business may choose to submit a Subcontracting Plan, but it is not a requirement. Section L.7.4.5 that details Subcontracting Plans will be included in the Small Business RFP.</p>	<p>Subcontracting Plan</p>

HCaTS RFI FAQ March 6 2015

<p>Please note:All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>What criteria will determine whether a Subcontracting Plan will pass or fail?  If the Offeror’s proposed subcontracting plan contains the eleven (11) elements described in FAR 52.219-9(d), will the Offeror receive a pass rating?</p>	<p>The Subcontracting Plan will be evaluated based on the goals meeting or exceeding HCaTS goals,correctness, and realism.</p>	<p>Subcontracting Plan</p>
<p>L.7.1.8 Please confirm that GSA’s subcontracting goals for the HCaTS vehicle are percentages of amount planned to be subcontracted, not percentages of revenue under the vehicle, and that bidders should so express their goals in their subcontracting plans.</p>	<p>The subcontracting goals are based on the number of subcontracted dollars.</p>	<p>Subcontracting Plan</p>
<p>L.7.4.5 This language requires submission of reports to eSRS or equivalent to get evaluation points for using small businesses. This provision systematically excludes the large number of companies that have outgrown small business status, but have not yet been required to file a subcontracting plan. Such companies will not have records in eSRS and will not likely produce such records before the HCaTS proposals are due. This evaluation factor should be removed. Recently-large companies may demonstrate their commitment to using small business through inclusion of small business subcontractors in their proposals and through their subcontracting plans. What is the purpose of the predominant NAICS? Will all task orders under each award pool be coded to that NAICS? If not, will bidders be allowed to bid for work in any NAICS, no matter how many NAICS they qualified under?</p>	<p>The evaluation factor to identify specific subcontractors has been removed. Other than small businesses shall be required to submit a subcontracting plan.  A predominant NAICS code is needed per Pool for contracting purposes. OCOs shall choose among the Pool's NAICS Codes and identify a predominant one at the task order (the predominant NAICS Code at the task order level does not need to be the same as the predominant NAICS Code at the contract level). Contracts are awarded by Pool and those awarded to that Pool may bid on any work that is solicited under their Pool.</p>	<p>Subcontracting Plan</p>
<p>Section L.7.4.5 – Meeting or Exceeding Total Small Business Goals states that offerors will be rated more favorably if the project meets or exceeds the Small Business percentage goals. Are there any negative consequences for not meeting the goals, or having related ISR or SSR reports?</p>	<p>Yes, there is a negative consequence for not meeting/exceeding Small Business percentage goals or having related ISR or SSR reports. You might be off-ramped.</p>	<p>Subcontracting Plan</p>
<p>Reference Section L, Paragraph L.7.3. [Can subcontractor past performance projects be used to meet the number of relevant past performance projects required for the various NAICS Codes?]</p>	<p>An Offeror can not submit a subcontractor's past performance projects to meet the pool NAICS requirement. Nor can they be used to meet the minimum number of Relevant Past Performance Projects.</p>	<p>Subcontractors</p>

HCaTS RFI FAQ March 6 2015

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>Can a prime vendor submit a proposal with key subcontractor teaming partners? This will be important for small businesses to effectively be able to compete on this vehicle since small businesses tend to have focused or specialized capabilities and not the breadth of capabilities that a large business would have.</p>	<p>There is a separate HCaTS contract vehicle set-aside solely for small business, which means a small business will only be competing against other small businesses. A prime contractor can not use their subcontractor's experience in any part of their proposal.</p>	<p>Subcontractors</p>
<p>Section L [In order to get credit for the CMMI Level 3 Certification, does the certification have to be held by the prime contractor, or can it be held by a subcontracting team member?]</p>	<p>An Offeror cannot take credit for any accreditations, certifications and systems from any of its proposed Subcontractors.</p>	<p>Subcontractors</p>
<p>Will the Government consider the qualifications of subcontractors to meet the requirements of the solicitation (e.g., past performance, NAICS codes, ISO certification)?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Subcontractors</p>
<p>Reference: "Each volume shall be a separate folder under the zip file...." Question: Will the Government please modify the requirement to include all six volumes?</p>	<p>Yes, this change has already been made.</p>	<p>Submission</p>
<p>Reference: "If the maximum size restriction of twenty-five (25) MB is exceeded..." Question: Legal documentation required (i.e., contracts, compensation plans, audit documents, etc.) can be quite lengthy; will the Government accept excerpted documents( e.g., the cover sheet from the approved compensation plan plus the appendixes containing the plans themselves)? The same would hold true for past performance contracts, etc.</p>	<p>Responses must abide by the size restrictions set forth in the RFP. The 25 MB size restriction is due to the mailbox being used to receive proposals. If a proposal exceeds 25 MB, please follow the instructions in Section L regarding multiple emails. You will need to label each email as 1 of X, 2 of X, etc.</p>	<p>Submission</p>
<p>It looks like the Proposal Format Table provided in Section L.6 only includes the requirements for Volume 1. Will the Government include Proposal Format Tables for all volumes in the draft RFP? Further, there seem to be a few discrepancies in the Volume Format Table and the format described in the following sections. For instance, "Subcontracting Documents" is listed as Volume 2 in the Table. However, Section L.7.1.8 states that the Subcontracting Plan should be in Volume 1. In addition, "Price Proposal" is listed as Volume 4 in the Table. However, Section L.8 states that "Cost/Price" should be in Volume 6. Please clarify the correct location and volume for each proposal response section.</p>	<p>Section L will include all instructions Offerors will be required to follow, inclusive of the proper format.</p>	<p>submission</p>
<p>Please clarify if Offerors should submit a separate application for each Pool.</p>	<p>Each business entity will submit one proposal, but they may apply for multiple pools under that proposal.</p>	<p>submission</p>

HCaTS RFI FAQ March 6 2015

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>Is it the governments intent to allow multiple sister companies of an Alaskan Native Corporation submit bids for the HCaTS SB path?</p>	<p>Offerors will only be permitted to submit one proposal under HCaTS and one proposal under HCaTS SB. An Offeror shall have a DUNS # and be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) in accordance with FAR 52.204-7.</p>	<p>Submission</p>
<p>Per Section L.5 of Appendix 3, "Offerors may compete for more than one Pool; however, the Offeror shall only submit one proposal." The past performance requirements and relevant experience requirements per the "Our Early Thinking on Contract Structure" and Section L.7.3 of Appendix 3 are different. How can an Offeror submit only one proposal for all 3 Pools? Presumably, each Pool would require a different proposal. Is that the intent?</p>	<p>Each business entity can submit only one proposal. When applying for each individual pool, you must submit the specific requirements for that pool in order to be considered for that award. the Administrative and Qualifications Projects part of the proposal need only to be submitted once per proposal, but the Past Experiences Projects must be submitted for each pool application</p>	<p>Submission</p>
<p>What is the task order competition process for HCaTS vs. HCaTS SB? Will a small business set-aside decision be based on an estimated pricing threshold?</p>	<p>There will be no difference. The Customer decides which Contract Vehicle that the task order will be released under based on careful research.</p>	<p>Task Order</p>
<p>How will GSA/OPM address hybrid requirements such as training embedded in a human capital requirement or communications embedded in a training requirement? Are hybrid requirements supported by the pool structure? Section C references "total integrated solutions" but the split between human capital and training pools does not support integrated solutions. Can GSA/OPM create an approach that will address hybrid requirements?</p>	<p>A predominant NAICS code for a complex requirement will be chosen and the task order will be released under a poll that holds that NAICS code. Since all KSAs that make up HCaTS span all pools, all pool contractors can bid on a solution that spans multiple KSAs. HCaTS contractors can team up and use subcontractors to fulfill the requirements of a task order.</p>	<p>Task Order</p>

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>In Section L.7.2.4, the 3rd paragraph states “if an Offeror is submitting a collection of task orders under a Single-Award IDIQ or BPA, the collection of task orders as a whole is considered a single project.” Does this mean that we CANNOT submit individual task orders from a single-award IDIQ as separate projects to cover individual KSAs and NAICS codes within one or more pools? If so, Adayana believes that this is somewhat counter to the intent of the past performance evaluation. Many times, the task orders under a single-award IDIQ are extremely varied in both the type of work performed and the client/end-user requesting the services. Requiring a contractor to use different task orders within a single-award IDIQ as only one project may hinder qualified contractors in meeting the past performance requirements of this procurement</p>	<p>No, individual task orders are permissible for Past Performance.</p>	<p>Task Order</p>
<p>We are now in the third iteration of a series of sole source contracts with the same customer. Can we count each of these contracts separately? (Ref Section L.7.3, p. 18)</p>	<p>No, the RFP will state that only one limited source award may be submitted.</p>	<p>Task Order</p>
<p>What is the process that will be used to compete task orders?</p>	<p>Any Federal agency can place a task order utilizing FAR Section 16.505 procedures, adding clauses that do not conflict with the terms and conditions of the contract. Task orders can be awarded under any contract type (Fixed Price, Cost Reimbursement, Time-and-Material and Labor Hour) as the Ordering Contracting Officer determines best.</p>	<p>Task Order</p>
<p>Will task order awards be firm, fixed-price? And if so, will awards be best-value or LPTA?</p>	<p>Task orders can be awarded using any of the Fixed Price, Cost Reimbursement and/or Time-and-Material/Labor-Hour contract types.</p>	<p>Task Order</p>
<p>Who will identify and specify agency requirements resulting in requests for Task Orders?</p>	<p>Task orders can be solicited and procured by any Federal agency on a direct acquisition basis (i.e. they can place the task order themselves) or on an assisted acquisition basis (i.e. using OPM's TMAP to procure the services on their behalf).</p>	<p>Task Order</p>
<p>Will task orders be competed across both HCaTS vehicles or separated between large and small businesses?</p>	<p>Federal agencies will choose between the two contract vehicles after conducting market research.</p>	<p>Task Order</p>

HCaTS RFI FAQ March 6 2015

<p>Please note: All information is subject to change. We are sharing this information now for transparency, but please check the Draft RFP for official language and the latest changes.</p>		
<p><u>Question</u></p>	<p><u>Answer</u></p>	<p><u>Topic</u></p>
<p>HCaTS RFI APPENDIX 2 - DRAFT RFP SECTION C; The government appears to be competing with itself with these two lines, if there are existing vehicles in place already, what is the incentive for customers to use this one? Customer service and marketing of the original OPM TMA started out heavy and then trickled down, putting off additional usage.</p>	<p>We are not quite sure what you are referring to in regard to the "government appears to be competing with itself." TMA usages have fallen over the years due to reductions in agency budgets and because we are operating with interim contracts, which limit how long customers can keep a contractor with having to re-compete the work. HCaTS will not be burdened by these restraints.</p>	<p>TMA</p>
<p>According to FPDS, the 29 interim TMA contracts (OPM1912C0021 through OPM1912C0051) are set to expire on September 30, 2015. Could you please confirm the expiration date for the contracts.</p>	<p>Yes, FPDS does show the current interim contracts ending on September 30, 2015. That date is the end of the current option period. There are two options remaining under the current contract period, with the last option period running October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017.</p>	<p>TMA</p>
<p>Also, could you please provide expiration date for the previous TMA contracts that were awarded in 2007 (OPM020700001 through OPM020700045)? Did the contracts expire on September 30, 2012? According to FPDS, some of the Task Orders awarded under the previous contracts remain active. Does this mean that the Task Orders under these contracts may extend 5 years past the expiration date of the prime IDC contracts?</p>	<p>There are two TMA contract vehicles: one that expired in 2012 and the successor sole source contracts that expire in 2017. Task orders awarded under the TMA contract vehicle that expired in 2012 have their own period of performance as awarded by the individual OCO. The current TMA contract vehicle expires in 2017, and task orders awarded under this contract vehicle have their own period of performance as awarded by the individual OCO.</p>	<p>TMA</p>
<p>Reference: "For the HCaTS contract vehicle, the Offeror shall submit their policy for addressing uncompensated overtime consistent with its cost accounting practices..." Question: For those companies not having an individual uncompensated overtime policy, will the government consider the submission of an approve time charging policy?</p>	<p>The Government will review all policies that address uncompensated overtime and is not suggesting a particular policy.</p>	<p>Uncompensated Overtime</p>